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X-MEN

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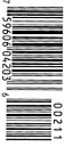
WEAPON

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H. DAM
HUBER

AFTER XAVIER:
THE AGE OF
APOCALYPSE

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DIRECT EDITION

00211 >

STAN LEE PRESENTS: A WORLD WITHOUT XAVIER

FIRE IN THE SKY!

SHE STILL TUGS ON
MY HEART LIKE THE
MOON PULLIN' ON THE
TIDES.

GUESS I'VE BEEN IN
DENIAL 'BOUT US DRIFTIN'
APART, BUT THE PLANNED
DOOMSDAY STRIKE* AGAINST
APOCALYPSES' NORTH
AMERICA USE HERS BROUGHT
IT TO A HEAD.

JUST THE FAINTEST TRACE O'
THE PSI-LINK THAT USED TO
BE LIKE A RIVER BETWEEN OUR
SOULS --

-- JUST ENOUGH TO
LEAD ME HERE TO
BRISTOL ON THE
WEST COAST O'
ENGLAND --

LARRY HAMA
SCRIPT
DAN GREEN
INKS
JOE ROSAS
COLORS
BOB HARRAS • EDITOR

ADAM KUBERT
PENCILS
PAT BROSSEAU
LETTERS
D. CHAMELEON
SEPARATIONS

WOKE UP THIS
MORNIN' AND SHE
WAS GONE.

"JEAN!!!"

* SEE LAST
ISSUE -- BOB.

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--THE DROP-OFF
POINT OF THE
GREAT SENTINEL
AIRLIFT.

THE LARGEST
AIR DROPPED EVER
ASSEMBLED--

--DEFYIN' ALL ODDS
TO FLY THROUGH THE
GAP ME FLY TEAM
KNOCKED OUT O'
DROOPYLIFE'S ATLANTIC
SEA WALL DEFENSES--

--TO FERRY OUT
THE HUMANS
TRAPPED IN NORMAN--

JEAN!!

YOU'VE
PASSED THE
MUTANT WEAPONS
SCANNER AND YOU
ARE ELIGIBLE FOR
RELOCATION UNDER THE
DISPLACED HUMANS
ACT.

WELCOME
TO UNITED
EUROPE--

*FOR THE STORY
OF THE SENTINELS,
GET JAMMING
X-MEN 1 & 2--BOB.

JEAN!

I'VE BEEN
LOOKIN' HIGH
AN' LOW FOR
YA!

I
THOUGHT--

I KNOW,
LOGAN,
BUT I JUST
HAD TO
COME AND
HELP
OUT...

AW, DARLIN'-- I KNEW YOU
WERE UPSET ABOUT THE
HUMAN HIGH COUNCIL
PLANNIN' TO ZAP APOCA-
LYPSE IN HIS OWN BACK-
YARD--

--I WAS
AFRAID YOU
WERE GOIN'
BACK-- TO
WARN 'EM
AND--

--DARLIN',
WHAT WOULD
I DO WITH-
OUT YA?

PIERCE!
THAT'S
WEAPON X UP
THERE! YOU
SAID--

SHUT UP,
GLEEG. YOU
AND SLOOCUM
AREN'T STUPID
ENOUGH TO BE
CARRYIN'
ANY TAGS.
ARE YOU?

WE'RE
BOTH CLEAN,
BOSS.

YOU
JUST *COULDN'T*
UNDERSTAND,
DO YOU,
LOGAN?

EVEN
AFTER ALL
THIS TIME TO-
GETHER--

--I-I
HAVE TO
BELIEVE THAT
THERE IS
ANOTHER
WAY.

THERE
HAS
TO BE!

THAT'S
A LOAD O'
MALARKY,
JEAN!

YOU SHOULD
BE FIRST ON LINE
TO PUSH THE BUT-
TON ON THOSE
CREEPS!!

YOU WERE
ONE O' THE
FEW WHO
SURVIVED THE
PENS!

ARE YA
FORGETTIN'
THAT??

I'LL
NEVER
FORGET THAT,
LOGAN...

AWOOGA!
AWOOGA!

WEAPON
AT SCANNER
#3!!!

NOT A TWITCH
NOR A BLINK,
MATE--

I'M
PATting HIM
DOWN BUT
HE DOESN'T
SEEM TO BE
PACKING--

IT'S JEFFRIES!
HIM AND THAT
SHAPE-SHIFTER
VANESSA--

--THEY
JOINED THE
LIFT IN
MID-AIR--
SHOULD WE
--?

STAY
OUT OF IT
WE CAN USE
THIS AS
COVER...

WHICH
IS PRO-
BABLY ALL
IT WAS IN-
TENDED TO
BE.

HE'S DOIN'
HIS TECHN-
O-LOGICAL
TELEPATH
THING!

"AMAZING
X-MEN #2!"

YOU'VE AL-
READY FOUND
THE WEAPON.
FOOL--

--THE
WEAPON
IS ME!

GO
FOR IT,
BOX!

BACK ME UP
COPYCAT!



WE'LL SHOW
THESE PATHETIC
FLAT SCANS THAT
THE **STRONG**
AND THE **FIT** CAN
FIGHT--!

--WHEN
OUR **CAUSE**
IS **RIGHT-**
EOLS!



FOR
APOCALYPSE!

FOR
PURITY
AND
TRUTH!!

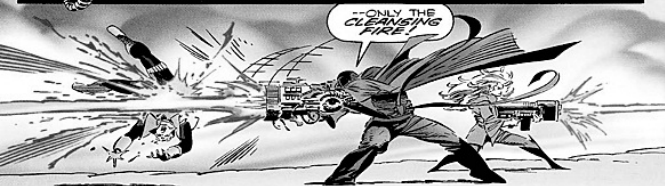
ARE YOU
READY TO BE
PURIFIED!
HUMAN?

PUR--
WHU--?



"HEEEELP!!

THERE
IS NO
HELP--



--ONLY THE
CLEANSING
FIRE!



IT'S THE
SCREAMIN'
O' THE
KIDS--



--THAT
TRIGGERS A
FLASH O'
MEMORY IN
JEAN SO
STRONG--



I REMEMBER
IT TOO.



--THAT IT
JUMPS THE
PSI-LINK
BETWEEN US
LIKE A SPARK
GAP.



THE RIPPIN'
SILK SOUND
O' PLASMA
WEAPONS SET
ON KILL.



THE DISTRACTED
AIR O' THE KILL-
ERS.



THE NIGHT
I BUSTED
HER OUTTA
THE BREED-
IN' PENS...



HER PSI-LINK
BURNS THROUGH
THE AIR AT ME
LIKE BLUE LIGHT-
NING...



...THE DOG SOLDIERS
WERE USIN' THE RE-
JECTS FOR TARGET
PRACTICE.



IT'S SOMETHIN'
DEEP AN' ANCIENT
THAT AIN'T A WORD
OR A THOUGHT--



--IT'S THE WHOLE
WORLD TURNING
TO BLOOD AN' FIRE
AND IT MEANS --



KILL!!!

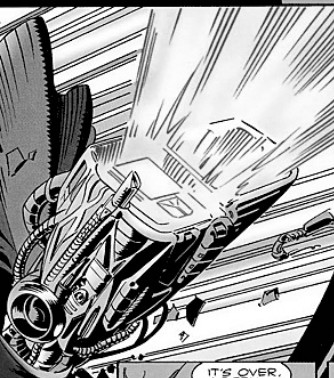


EEEEHA!

I UNDER-
STAND.

MAYBE
I UNDER-
STAND TOO
MUCH.

YA KNOW,
THERE WAS
A MOMENT
THAT NIGHT AT
THE PENS WHEN
IT SEEMED LIKE
YA DIDN'T WANT
TO *LEAVE*...



IT'S OVER,
LOGAN--

OVER?



THIS IS
WAR,
JEAN!!

DON'T
YOU
UNDER-
STAND THIS
IS ABOUT KILLIN'
THE *ENEMY*
BEFORE IT KILLS
US?

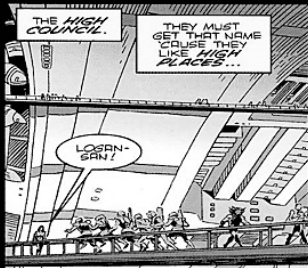


I GOTTA
GET BACK TO
THE *HIGH*
COUNCIL.
DARLIN'.

GOTTA BRIEF
'EM ON THE PRIME
TARGETS. YOU AN'
ME BEEN HITTIN'
FOR YEARS...



...YOU
DO WHAT
YOU HAVE
TO DO,
JEAN.



THE HIGH COUNCIL.

THEY MUST GET THAT NAME 'CAUSE THEY LIKE HIGH PLACES...

LOGAN-SAN!



YEAH?



COULD I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU BEFORE YOU BRIEF THE OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS?

ANYTHING YOU SAY, LADY MARIKO.

...IN PRIVATE?

BUT YOUR BUSINESS WAS WITH MY FATHER
--SHINGEN--

STILL, PERHAPS THINGS COULD HAVE BEEN QUITE DIFFERENT IF --



YOU NEEDN'T BE SO FORMAL, LOGAN-SAN. YOU CALLED ME *MARI*! WHEN I KNEW YOU IN JAPAN.

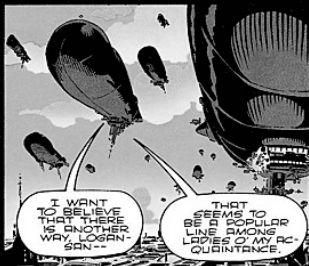
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO AND YOU WERE JUST A KID.

A TEEN-AGER, REALLY.



LOOK, YOU DIDN'T ASK ME DOWN HERE TO JAW ABOUT THE PAST AND WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN--

--WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?



I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ANOTHER WAY, LOGAN-SAN--

THAT SEEMS TO BE A POPULAR LINE AMONG LADIES O' MY ACQUAINTANCE.



I WILL NOT CONTEST THE MAJORITY DECISION OF THE COUNCIL TO DO THIS TERRIBLE THING...

...BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I DO NOT TRUST ABOUT BRADDOCK.

IT'S AS IF HE HAS A VESTED INTEREST IN THE ESCALATING WAR BETWEEN MUTOHANS AND HUMANS.



I WISH I COULD BELIEVE IN THE PURITY OF HIS INTENTIONS--



PARDON--?

NOTHIN'. YOU WERE SAYIN'?



OF COURSE HE DOES!

BRADDOCK INDUSTRIES MANUFACTURES THE SENTINELS

HE'S ONE O' THE MOST IMPORTANT HUMANS ON THE FACE O' THE EARTH!



--AH!



BOOOOM!

MAYDAY!
MAYDAY! WE
ARE UNDER
ATTACK BY
MUTANT TER-
RORISTS!!!

THANK YOU,
CAPTAIN!
THAT'S JUST
THE PIECE OF
INFORMATION WE
WANTED--

-- AND BY
THE WAY,
WE'RE NOT
MUTANTS.
WE'RE
ALTERED
HUMANS!





WE
HAVE TO
DO SOME-
THINGS, LOGAN-
SAN!

YOU'RE
A *PIP*,
LADY
MARIKO--

-- WE ARE
OUT OF
CONTROL AND
DRIFTING TOWARDS
THE AIRSHIP THAT
CONTAINS THE
ANALOG GUIDANCE
SYSTEM FOR THE
DOOMSDAY
ATTACK!

-- WE'RE
GONNA HAVE
OUR HANDS
FULL JUST KEEP-
IN' OURSELVES
FROM GETTIN'
CRISPY-CRITTER-
IZED!

THAT
SYSTEM IS
IRREPLACE-
ABLE!!

WITHOUT
IT, OUR
WEAPONS
ARE WORTH-
LESS!!

LOGAN-SAN!
IF THE GUIDANCE
SYSTEM IS
DESTROYED--

I
HEARD
YA
MARI--

I MUST BE LOSIN' IT.

LIKE IT JUST
SLIPPED OUT
O' MY HEART.

I CALLED
HER *MARIA*.

GOTTA
BE LOSIN' IT
TO TRY *THIS*
STUNT.

IF I BURN TOO LONG,
MY OL' *MUTANT*
HEALIN' FACTOR
MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO
KEEP UP WITH THE
DAMAGE.

WE
CANNAE
ALLOW THE
GUIDANCE
SYSTEM TO
BE DESTROYED,
BRIAN--!

--EVEN IF
WE HAVE TO
STEER *OUR-*
SELVES INTO
THE BURNING
AIRSHIP!

...*NO!* WE'RE
THE *HIGH*
COUNCIL, *MARIA*!
IT'S OUR DUTY TO
PRESERVE OURSELVES
FOR THE GOOD OF *MAN-*
KIND!





OH, I FIGURE
THE UPDRAFT
FROM THE FIRE
WILL SLOW ME
DOWN SOME...



SMART MOVE.

SHOULD'VE
THOUGHT O'
THAT *BEFORE*
JUMPIN'.

YOUR SELF-
LESSNESS NEVER
CEASES TO AMAZE
ME, BRADDOCK!
WHAT ABOUT A CON-
CENTRATION OF
LASER FIRE--?

DON'T
SHOOT--!

LOGAN
JUST JUMPED
DOWN ONTO THAT
AIRSHIP...

"...HE'S GOING TO TRY TO STOP THE TERRORISTS BEFORE THEY GET TO THE OTHER AIRSHIPS!"

--WHEN WE GET CLOSE ENOUGH, I SHALL BOARD THE GUIDANCE DIRIGIBLE AND UTTERLY DESTROY THEIR FILTHY EURASIAN DE-VICE!

THESE TWO ARE STILL ALIVE, PIERCE! SHOULD I POP THEIR LITTLE HEADS OFF?

LEAVE THEM TO ME, CLEGG--

--I WANT THE KILLING RUSH FOR MYSELF!

EEEEYAAAAA!

RRRIP! SKRONK! SKREE!

--WHAT'S THAT NOISE ABOVE US? COULD THIS SHIP BE BREAKING UP ALREADY?



OH MY
GOODNESS!
IT'S THAT
DIMINUTIVE
RENEGADE
MUTANT--
WEAPON X--
TRA
SHORT!

COME TO
SAVAGE MY
KNEECAPS,
HAVE YOU
TURNCOAT?

YOU'RE
DEAD
WE'VE
PIERCE

YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO'S BE-
TRAYED HIS
RACE AND
HIS DESTINY,
LOGAN!

SIC
HIM, MY
PRETTY
BOYS!

EEHHAAA!

I
WANT HIS
CLAWS
FOR A
NECK-
LACE--

YOU
WANT MY
ADAMANT-
TIUM--?

SCHRRRIIIIIPPP!

--YOU
GOT
IT!

NOW,
IT'S *YOUR*
TURN
PIERCE--

--I'M THE
LAD WHO ALWAYS
KICKED OVER THE
CHECKER BOARD
WHEN IT LOOKED
LIKE I WAS
LOSING!

I DON'T
PLAY BY
YOUR SILLY
ROLES--
LOGAN--

BA-THOOM

YOUR
HIRELITE
LITTLE
PALADIN HAS
FAILED.
MARIKO--

--HE
ALLOWED
THOSE REMNANTS
OF APOCALYPSE
TO FOIL OUR
ONE CHANCE AT
A
**FIRST
STRIKE!**

AT
LEAST WE
MADE THE
ATTEMPT.
BRADDOCK--

THERE'S
SOMEONE
WALKING
OUT OF THAT
INFERNO!

IS IT
POSSIBLE
?

I COULD'VE
LET MYSELF
BURN BRIGHT
LIKE BLAKE'S
TIGER.

BUT I HEARD
A SIREN CALL
ON THE PSI-
LINK.

IT WAS THE
VOICE THAT
SINGS THAT
ANTHEM OF
MY SOUL...

... AND SHE
WAS SAYING
"GOOD-BYE".

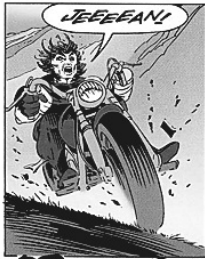
JEAN!!

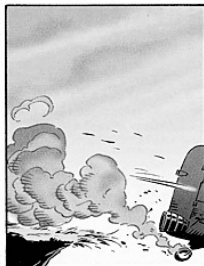
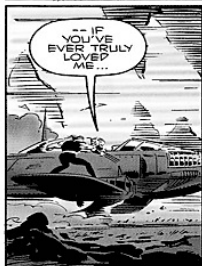
THAT WAS
HER MISTAKE,
YOU SEE.

SHE SHOULD
HAVE STAYED
OFF THE LINK
AND GONE ON
HER WAY,
LEAVING ME
IN THE DARK...



... BUT THE FAINTEST,
BRIEFEST IMAGE OF
THAT AIRSTRIP IN
CORNWALL BLEED INTO
HER LAST FAREWELL
LIKE A POSTCARD
GLIMPSED IN PASSING.









X-FACTS

FEBRUARY 1995

REALITY CHECKED

So you say you've been marooned on a desert island for the past few months and are just returning to the X-Verse this month? Well, if that's the case, then you may have noticed that things aren't quite the same as they were before you left! Seems as if some radical alterations have been made to the X-Men's continuity, doesn't it?

Yesiree, there sure have! So, for anyone who's feeling a bit out of the loop, here's a quick lesson to bring you up to speed on what's been happening to everyone's favorite genetic anomalies...



introduced us to a darkling, nightmare world bereft of the optimism of Xavier's dream and activities on behalf of both human and mutantkind. The Darwinism-driven Apocalypse made a play for global power sooner than he ever did in our reality, and without a well-organized team of X-Men to stop him, he managed to assume control of North America while wiping out a sizable portion of civilization in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres in the process. As a result, the United States has become Apocalypse's stronghold and a kingdom dominated by mutants. Sectioned off into five distinct territories, Apocalypse's devious vassals — *Sinister*, *Holocaust*, *Abyss* and *Mikhail Rasputin* —



rule their respective lands with iron fists in the name of their dread lord and master.

Scattered pockets of human settlements still exist in North America, but the majority of the survivors of the genetic cullings which continue to sweep throughout the continent have fled for their lives to the shores of Europe, where the Eurasian High Council conducts its intercontinental terrorist counterstrike activities against Apocalypse.

With the battle lines so divisively drawn between humans and mutants in this reality, one might think that there wouldn't be a shred of opposition to these forces so intent upon the other's destruction. Ah, but that is most definitely not the case here! For even though Charles Xavier no longer exists in this reality, his influence lives on in the heart and mind of his closest — and not to mention *most powerful*! — friend, the mutant master of magnetism... *Magneto!*

"Witness to the damage being wrought by Apocalypse's rise to power, Magneto took it upon himself to fulfill Charles's vision of a peaceful future by doing the one thing that

A CAST FROM THE PAST

While many of the characters in the Age Of Apocalypse may seem familiar to some of you devoted readers out there, you might not be able to place exactly where you know them from. Maybe they've got a different code name, or perhaps their costumes have been changed. See if you can match the characters around this page with their original incarnations in our reality. ➡

(Here's a hint that should help those of you who are new to the X-Verse do your research... the following characters all made their first appearances sometime during the first run of the original X-Men.)



his friend never had the opportunity to do — found the Amazing X-Men!

But Magneto's uniting the X-Men isn't the only thing that makes this reality so radically different from the one we've grown to know and love over the past thirty-plus years! Take the inimitable Summers brothers as an example. We all know Cyclops and Havok as the upstanding leaders of the X-Men's Blue team and the U.S. Government-sponsored X-Factor, correct?

Incorrect!

In the Age Of Apocalypse, Cyclops and Havok are the charges of none other than the diabolical geneticist known as *Sinister!* Believe it or not, these two heroes aren't fighting for Xavier's dream! When they're not at each other's throats, these savage siblings are two of the most important instruments of Apocalypse's terrifying nightmare!

And that's one of the reasons why you may have noticed a one-handed, adamantium-clawed Weapon X and a short-haired, tattoo-faced Jean Grey fighting side-by-side and indulging in an occasional little smoocheroonie here and there. That's right, the unrequited lovers in our universe are quite required in this one!

Oh, and guess who else has turned her back on the cause of mutants? None other than *Dr. Moira MacTagger!* Not only is she married to industrialist and Sentinel-creator, *Bolivar Trask*, but she is also the head of the Eurasian High Council and a major proponent of their planned eradication of mutantkind!

Or howabout this little tidbit of turn-about info... *Sabretooth's an X-Man!*

COVER SHOWCASE

ART BY
JOE MADUREIRA
& TIM
TOWNSEND

THE ASTONISHING
X-MEN



You're probably asking yourself, "Have they gone insane!?" Well, we here at the X-Office may not have, but the world that these heroes are trying to survive in sure has. Hey, desperate times really do call for desperate measures!

And if that doesn't sound loopy enough, check this one out... Rogue and Magneto are married! And they have a son!

Who woulda thunk it? Obviously, you're finding this a little hard to believe, but trust us when we say that you can stop beating yourselves up trying to figure out "How could Rogue have children!?", or desperately hoping to come up with some scenario that could once and for all explain "Whatever happened between Rogue and Gambit!?"

It's making y'all crazy, ain't it? You're just dying to know the answers, right? Well, all we ask is that you just sit tight, be patient and try not to get in

the way, 'cuz if the X-Men don't defeat Apocalypse, prevent the Human High Council from unleashing nuclear armageddon, travel back in time to save Professor X and halt the M'Kraan Crystal's destructive wave before it reaches this last bastion of reality in **X-MEN: OMEGA**, then you might never learn the answers!

THE WISH LIST

ASTONISHING X-MEN #2: The X-Men take on Apocalypse's forces head-on as they try to prevent a massive genetic culling in Chicago! Plus, the maniacal menace of Apocalypse's most favored horse-man, *Holocaust!* By Scott Lobdell and Joe Madureira!

X-MAN #2: Tracked by Domino and her hunters, Essex leads X-Man and Co. to a 'genetic factory' and into the hands of Apocalypse's zealous followers, the *Madri!* Plus, Essex's secret is discovered, and someone pays for it with their life! By Jeph Loeb and Steve Skroce!

GENERATION NEXT #2: The next generation of X-Men descend into the darkest depths of Apocalypse's slave pens as the search for *Ilyana Rasputin* continues! Plus, the introduction of the 'sweetest' villain of all... the *Sugar Man!* By Scott Lobdell and Chris Bachalo!

WEAPON X #2: Helping the human evacuation of North America, Logan and Jean discover ideological differences that threaten to tear the happy couple apart! Will they reconcile their differences before *Pierce* and his gene-technologically augmented humans sabotage the entire operation? By Larry Hama and Adam Kubert!

X-CALIBER #2: Ignorant to the fact he's being tailed by *Damask* and the *Pale Riders*, Nightcrawler embarks on a perilous sea voyage in search of the mythic *Avolon!* But if the *Madri* continue to destroy the *Infernal Gallop*, he may never arrive! By Warren Ellis and Roger Cruz!

AMAZING X-MEN #2: Seeking to aid the Sentinels' evacuation of the human population, the X-Men risk their lives to prevent any further genocide and end up going toe-to-toe with some of Apocalypse's fearsome enforcers, the evil *Brotherhood!* Plus, the malevolence of the mischievous *Abys!* By Fabian Nicieza and Andy Kubert!

FACTOR X #2: There's trouble in the mutant hierarchy as *Sinister* continues to elude Apocalypse's forces. Tensions between the Summers brothers mount even further when *Havok* discovers who is responsible for freeing the slaves from the pens! By John Francis Moore and Steve Epting!

GAMBIT & THE X-TERNALES #2: Slingshot to the other side of the galaxy by *Lila Cheney's* newfound mutant powers, the X-Ternals go where no mutant has ever dared go before...into the heart of the *Sh'ior Imperium!* Will they steal the *M'Kraan Crystal* from the mad Emperor *D'Ken*, or get pinched by that interstellar band of freebooters known as the *Starjammers!*? By Fabian Nicieza and Tony Daniel!

